

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5684

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N-A

TAGS: ENRG, UI, EC

SUBJECT: UK DEMAND FOR SEPARATE REPRESENTATION AT
CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE

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REF: (A) LONDON 15852, (B) LONDON 15709

1. OCTOBER 17 TIMES REPORTS THAT IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD EXPRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON STRONG FEELINGS OF IRISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT BRITISH DEMAND FOR SEPARATE SEAT AT CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. FITZGERALD HINTED THAT THE US WOULD SOON BE MAKING ITS OWN ANNOYANCE KNOWN TO HMG. FITZGERALD REPORTEDLY SAID, "IT WOULD BE REALLY TRAGIC IF THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT COULD PREVENT THE CONFERENCE GOING AHEAD, AND DR. KISSINGER WAS AS CONCERNED AS I WAS ABOUT THAT."

2. BRITISH PPESS CONTINUES TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO NEGATIVE EUROPEAN REACTIONS TO UK STAND ON PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE. PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S REPLY TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, HOWEVER, IS CHARACTERIZED AS GENERALLY CONAILIATORY IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE BUT UNYIELDING ON QUESTION OF SEPARATE REPRESENTATION.

3. COMMENT: PUBLIC FUROR CREATED BY CRITICISM AND "WARNINGS" OF SCHMIDT, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ETC., HAVE TENDED TO STIFFEN LABOUR PARTY SENTIMENT IN SUPPORT OF CALLAGHAN POSITION. THIS IS LIKELY TO HAVE (PURPOSEFULLY?) IMPAIRED HMG'S ABILITY TO RETREAT ON SEPARATE SEAT ISSUE FAILING AT LEAST APPEARANCE OF HAVING WON SUSTANTIAL QUID PRO QUO FROM EC PARTNERS. LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL SPECULATION THAT CALLAGHAN IS PROBABLY ENGAGED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IN A NEGOTIATING PLOY TO ENSURE BRITISH CHAIRMANSHIP (ON BEHALF OF EC) OF ONE OF CONFERENCE COMMISSIONS, MAY NOT BE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF FONMIN'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND. BUT TIMES SPECULATION ABOUT FINAL RESULT MAY NOT BE TOO FAR OFF THE MARK.

RICHARDSON

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